

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

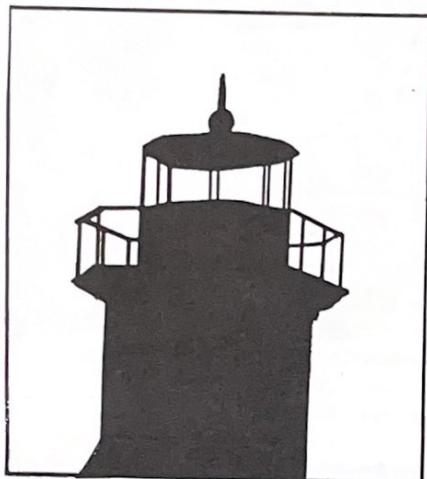
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P.O. Box 1419 Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Spring, 1993 No. 15

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO LIGHT THE LIGHT



Yes, with our public occupancy permit granted last October, we can say the restoration of the lighthouse building is essentially complete!

It is so incredibly rewarding to look at this shining jewel which represents the hard work and support of so many people in our community--members, donors, suppliers, volunteers. You can all be darned proud!

While claiming to be done, realistically, we know that restoration is an on-going process. Even the word "building" (a present participle) proves this point. It reminds us of the continuing need to stay involved. After all, we don't call it a "built"!

The crowning jewel to our restoration is, of course, the light. Before we turn it on, however, we must raise \$100,000 which will 1) complete our Capital Fund-raising Campaign and 2) insure that we won't be using fossil fuels to light it.

We are happy to report that the first "Light the Light" contribution (received from an anonymous donor) is in the form of a \$2,000 matching grant to go towards our

new "solar" batteries. Funds you contribute to our "Light the Light" campaign will match this grant and help us reach the total goal of \$100,000.

Please help make this dream a reality and send your contribution soon. We also need volunteers, so please call Charlotte at 847-4242 if you can help. If we're successful, a spectacular lighting ceremony can be scheduled this summer.



DOES ANYONE REMEMBER...

...before World War I when a German submarine came up Narragansett Bay?
...a New York family named Lantz who summered on Jamestown and had a son who in 1932 got stranded in a sailboat on Rose Island with Tessie Vetterlein (now Terrie Landfair) and George Crawford?

It's wonderful how an article or picture in the paper or on TV brings back and old memory of a Rose Island visit--sometimes an unplanned one, like Terrie Landfair's, when she went aground in a friend's sailboat on Rose Island.

Olive Libby saw Chronicle on Channel 5 and wrote us about her visit in 1915 with her Aunt Sophie, who was the assistant keeper's wife. Jim Steel writes often of his love of Rose Island that began during his Navy days. Then there are Wanton Chase and Paul Stedman whose information helped us restore the lighthouse.

We will be sharing some of these stories and photographs ranging from 1910 to the '60s in future newsletters. If you want to share a photo or experience, if you have a question, an answer or a suggestion, please send it to: Editor, RILF NEWS, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840.

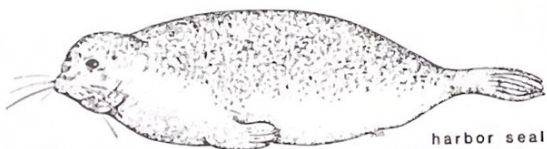


Gail Furr and Mary Philcox (above), along with Will Reynolds, Everett Stuart, Tim Pindell and Eric Offenberg, came to Rose Island from the Eastern R.I. Conservation District, Soil Conservation Service to "talk dirt" and to make recommendations for plantings. The results? ****On Earth Day, April 25**** our volunteers will be planting Rosa Rugosa, raspberries, blueberries and beach plums, thanks to Mary Philcox and ERICD's seedling program.

Additional contributions of plants and money for this work are welcome. We had a great time raising \$145 by selling "bird poop" gardens at the Winterfest Flower Show in February. Thanks to Ann Reynolds, Nancy Espersen, Leppy and Jason McCarthy!



Protected from the birds by helmets and an umbrella, Bill Nichols and Gilbert George of the R.I. Wild Plant Society conducted a plant survey on Rose Island last June.



harbor seal

Because of the nesting birds on Rose Island, access is limited from April 1 to July 15 each year. That means groups shouldn't be larger than 10 people and dinghies can't be brought up on the beaches. Call Charlotte at 847-4242 for information on scheduled tours during this period when you can come up to the lighthouse and borrow a hard hat if you want to do some bird watching.

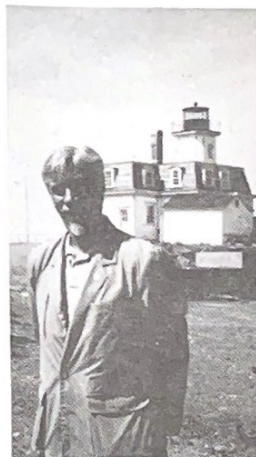
WHAT AN EDUCATION !



The snakes interested Conservation Agency folks from Jamestown: Glenn Mitchell, Dan Freitas and Numi Goodyear.

WE'LL COOPERATE, TONY!

Here is Tony Mach, Manager of NOAA-National Weather Service's co-operative weather program. Every morning since June (when our station was installed) our keepers have recorded precipitation and high/low temperatures for the previous 24 hours. The data is sent to NWS to generate climatological reports of long term trends.



The *Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation News* is published by the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Charlotte Johnson, Editor. Non-profit postage PAID at Newport, RI 02840. This 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation has restored the Rose Island lighthouse and is developing compatible, environmentally-sensitive programs in history, preservation, ecology, conservation and recreation that will enrich visitor's lives for many years to come.

Mail correspondence to: Charlotte Johnson, Editor, *RILF NEWS*, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840-0997 Phone 401-847-4242. Printed on recycled paper.



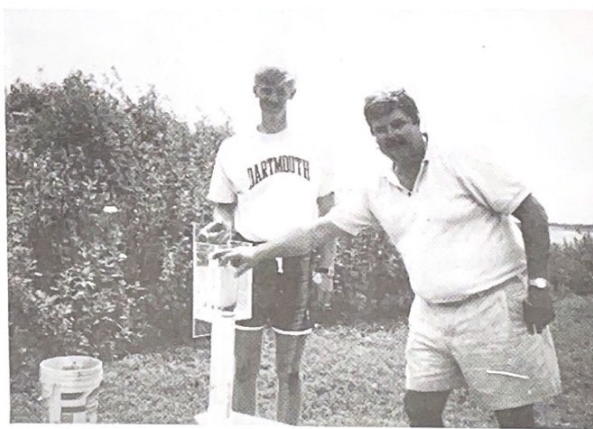
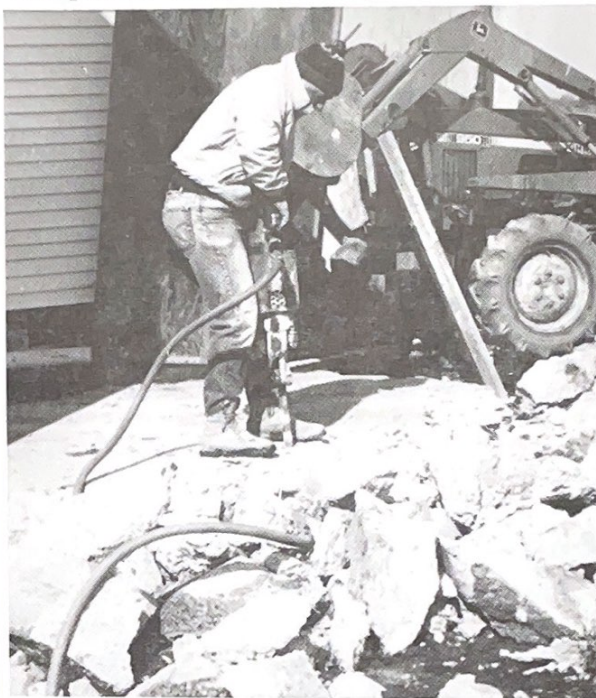
Cormier Movers deserves our thanks and a prize for moving a piano the most times. When we were looking for a player piano for the lighthouse, two were donated. The first one, donated by Walter & Elaine Steere of Greenville, will be moved to the lighthouse this spring (if we can get six strong volunteers). The second one was won last year at our April Fool's Day raffle by Sandy Coelho of Middletown.

She writes, "I could not have received anything which would have pleased me more. Ever since I've been a child, I have had a deep love for the piano...You may be rest assured that I will take good, loving care of it. It has truly been and will continue to be a major highlight of my life. Thank You!"

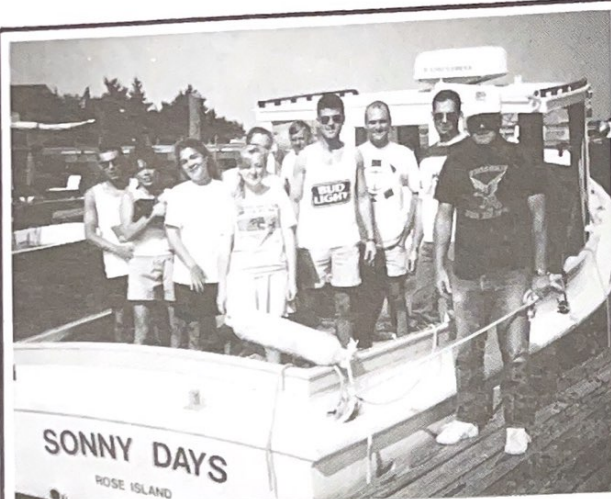


Then there was the office move...Volunteer Lee Eschenheimer helped paint the new office at the Newport Harbor Center (ex-Armory), 365 Thames Street, Newport.

Below, Joe Davis jiggled his brains out for three days while jackhammering the 2-foot thick slab of concrete that supported the Coast Guard's huge metal water tank. With that removed, the landscaping could be completed. The next task was to build the public toilet building.

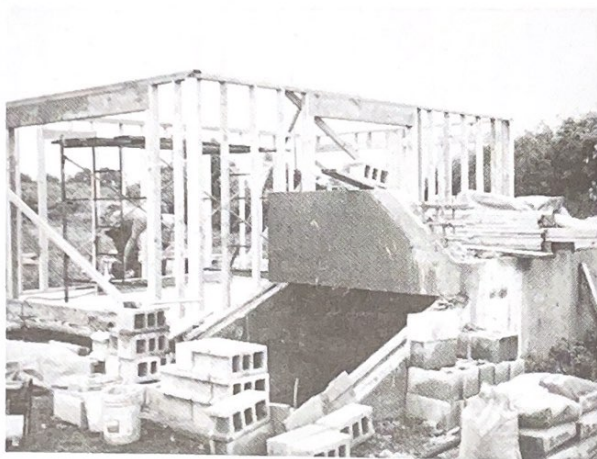


Ready to flush? Ed Zybur (a California visitor who knew about the importance of conserving water) tests Brysson Curtis' custom toilet tank. A student at St. George's, Brysson designed and constructed clear plastic one-gallon flushers for the lighthouse and public toilets as his summer project. Thanks Brysson!



Thanks to Richard and Michael Breen of Middletown, we are able to take materials and volunteers to the lighthouse aboard the 30-foot classic Downeast lobster boat they gave us. We'll forever be grateful to the Breens for their generous donation of this work horse of a boat, called "Sonny Days" after our first keeper.

Above, the strongest and most persistent volunteers alive are rounded up by their Master Chief Jim Boone of the U.S.S. Capodanno. Over three weeks, 25 crew and family members pitched in to do landscaping, to clear paths, scrape and paint just about everything, dig foundation holes and move the materials so the public toilets could be built before July 17--Tall Ships and the lighthouse's opening.



Beating our swords into plowshares...

This cement structure housed a generator that ran a WWII anti-aircraft gun. We considered demolishing it, but gave up when we realized it went six feet underground and was bombproof!

Sonny Guyette cleaned it out last summer--retribution, he said, for his having thrown so much stuff into it while he was stationed at the lighthouse under the Coast Guard!

We've made it into a cistern to hold water for the new public toilets--work which was funded by the Rhode Island Foundation in the amount of \$14,000.

The Newport Daily News donated enough aluminum printing sheets to cover the roof which Joe Davis and Mike Lipka teamed up to caulk and nail down. A painful job.

We'll continue experimenting with metal and plastic roofing materials to see how they affect water quality in the cisterns.



With the "OPEN" flag flying for the first time overhead, from left to right



are Jan Jarest with paintbrush in hand, Kimmarie Sorensen, Charlene Guyette, Roger Gilman, Charlotte Johnson, Sonny Guyette on crutches and Joe Davis.

Photo by Ray Perry



Putting a BANG! into the Tall Ships visit, Skip Davis explains the loading of the cannon which we fired for our friends aboard the USS Capodanno and for Esmeralda which is barely visible through the haze that soon turned into the thickest fog ever seen on the Bay. With Tall Ships, the New Bedford rules of the road would seem to apply: The bigger the boat, the righter the way!



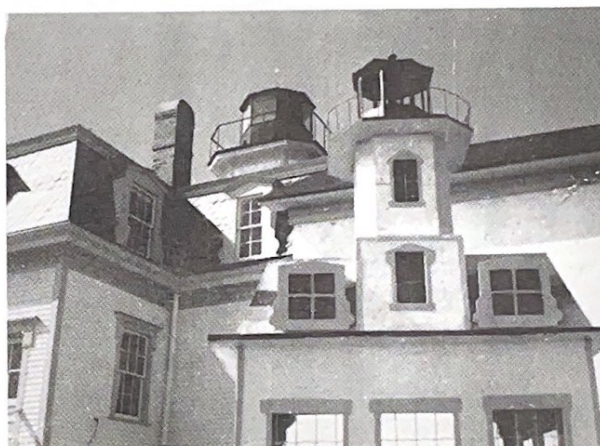
After the Guyettes left, volunteers kept the lighthouse until Eric Picard and Melissa Joly signed on. They are pictured to the right of Robert Chase and his father Wanton, whose grandfather was Charles Curtis (keeper from 1887-1918).

Then Charlotte Johnson became the keeper for the month of December, until Vermonter Christopher Owens signed on in

January. Chris, a writer whose companion is a 3-legged dog named Morgan, appreciates the solitude but also loves company.



And he is a remarkably talented carpenter, mechanic, electrician...proof of which is Morgan's model lighthouse that's complete with a solar light and a gutter system that fills the dog's dish with rainwater!

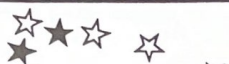


Become a Rose Island Lighthouse Keeper

Have you ever dreamed of being a lighthouse keeper? You can rent the modern second floor apartment, complete with chores, by the week or month throughout the year. As soon as our new solar batteries are installed, you can expect the morning and evening chores to take only a couple of hours each day, a bit longer when it rains.

The lighthouse is a wonderful place for writers, artists, history buffs and nature lovers of all kinds. Can you imagine a better or more unique vacation? Rates start at \$500/month for the winter, to \$600/week in the summer. Call Charlotte at 401-847-4242 for availability.

WISH LIST



Grounds & workshop tools & equipment

Gasoline circulating pump and sump pump
3x5 flags - Old Glory + other sentiments
solar garden lights for the pier and paths
Engine parts for a Simplicity tractor
Outdoor gas grill, lots of garden hose

Lighthouse Furnishings - Queen size box spring, mattress, sheets & pillowcases (white percale), stainless steel flatware, propane table top stove

Museum furnishings - Old fashioned kerosene table lamps, candlesticks, picture frames, pots and pans, spices, cookbooks, gadgets, glassware, etc. Small wooden desk, Manual doorbells (pull or twist), Old window locks

Library & Environmental Programs - Lap-top computer, encyclopedia, field guides (shells, birds, plants, reptiles), fishing rods, lobster traps, fish smoker

Office - A reliable answering machine

Boat Equipment - VHF radio, Boots and foul weather gear, Fenders, Lines, Life preservers, Large storage box or cooler



The Last Word - submitted by Anne Quigley

One night at sea, the ships captain saw what looked like lights of another ship heading towards his ship. The signaller was instructed to blink to the other ship: "Change your course 10 degrees south." The reply came back: "Change YOUR course 10 degrees north." The ship's captain answered: "I am a captain. Change your course 10 degrees south." To which the reply was: "Well, I am a seaman first class. Change YOUR course north."

This infuriated the captain, who signalled back: "Dammit, I say change your course south, I am on a battleship!" To which the reply came back: "And I say change your course north. I am in a lighthouse!"



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With our by-laws being revised, it wasn't until October that we held our Annual Meeting last year at the Ark Restaurant. We now elect all our board members from our membership and general public for three year terms and are happy to present our Board as follows:

Officers:

Gary R. Esposito, Chairman
Bruce T. Bartlett, Vice Chairman
Brenda Gordon, Secretary (replaced by William J. Cooper) in January
Sidney S. Gorham, III, Treasurer

Directors:

<u>Until June, 1994</u>	<u>Until June, 1995</u>
Lawrence A. Allen	Rodrego S. Borqueta
William J. Cooper	Annette M. DeSilva
Gary R. Esposito	Alan F. Flynn, Jr.
Glenn R. Gardiner	Mary M. Jennings
Hope Drury Goddard	Mary C. O'Brien
Sidney S. Gorham, III	Michael L. Semenza
Robert H. Zeigler, Jr.	Elizabeth M. Smith
	Evan E. Smith

Appointed by the City: Bruce T. Bartlett
Keith W. Stokes

Committees Established:

Our new By-Laws also provide for the establishment of committees on which our members and folks from the community can serve. They include Property, Education, Membership/Development and Programs. Please contact Charlotte Johnson if you are interested in helping with this important work.

VOLUNTEERS

ON ROSE ISLAND - Most we and May our property come up to 10 volunteers plus on Saturdays 10-4 and Sunday. Work includes some garbage work, shingling and painting. At some point need help to haul, clear boat. Pack a lunch and confirm a seat on one of

EVENTS & OFFICE WORK - I work times are available mailings, telephone call "Light" campaign and function. April 22, Channel 36: night at the lighthouse. Phone answerers and auction needed. Transportation from the Gateway to Char RELIEF KEEPERS AND GUID who can volunteer on a summer to lead groups a to take over the lighthouse. Please use the form below of your willingness, your availability.

MEMBERSHIP DUES Effective March

— \$ 5 Student
— \$10 Senior(\$5)
— \$15 Individual(\$10)
— \$30 Family(\$25)
— \$35 Business(\$25)

Enclosed are: ● Dues (marked)
● An additional

Write "Same" if the following

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street

VOLUNTEER ● I am available

REGISTER ● I would like to

Membership

● Call me for help

Other _____

Contributions are deducted from this form with your payment

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ON ROSE ISLAND - Most weekends in April and May our property committee will take up to 10 volunteers plus materials & tools on Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 1-4.

Work includes some gardening and grounds work, shingling and painting, moving and cleaning. At some point soon, we'll also need help to haul, clean and paint the boat. Pack a lunch and call 847-4242 to confirm a seat on one or more excursion.

EVENTS & OFFICE WORK - Day and evening work times are available to help with bulk mailings, telephone calls, our "Light the Light" campaign and fundraising events.

April 22, Channel 36: We're donating a night at the lighthouse to be auctioned. Phone answerers and auctioneers are needed. Transportation is provided at 5pm from the Gateway to Channel 36.

RELIEF KEEPERS AND GUIDES - We need people who can volunteer on a regular day in the summer to lead groups and/or to be on call to take over the lighthouse duties.

Please use the form below to let us know of your willingness, your talents and your availability.

BASIC MEMBERSHIP RATES INCREASE
FOR FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS.

Thanks to your volunteer efforts and contributions, we can still keep our basic rates quite affordable. As you would expect, the rate hike keeps up with the increased costs of postage and printing.

The old membership rates apply only until April 30, 1993. After May 1 please use the new schedule. No matter which rates you use, we do hope to hear from you as soon as possible so we can launch our spring and summer projects.



One of the ways we gauge the success of our organization is by the increasing numbers of people whom we thank each year. In 1992, for instance, we thanked over 1300 people for their support as members, volunteers, donors and suppliers. From the \$5.00 senior or student member to the \$25,000 grant giver, we appreciate each and every one's contribution of time, advice and money. With your continued help we will be able to LIGHT THE LIGHT!

MEMBERSHIP DUES Effective May 1, 1993 (The old rates in parentheses are valid until 4/30/93)

___ \$ 5 Student	___ \$ 50 Inspector	*"Keeper" memberships include a
___ \$10 Senior(\$5)	___ \$ 100 Superintendent	night for two at the lighthouse.
___ \$15 Individual(\$10)	___ \$ 250 Assistant Keeper*	Telephone 847-4242 for availability.
___ \$30 Family(\$25)	___ \$ 500 Associate Keeper*	
___ \$35 Business(\$25)	___ \$1000 Head Keeper*	

Enclosed are: • Dues (marked above) through June 30, 1994 in the amount of \$

● An additional "LIGHT THE LIGHT" contribution in the amount of \$

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Write "Same" if the following information is the same as your mailing label on the reverse side:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip
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VOLUNTEER • I am available to help on Weekends Weekdays

REGISTER • I would like to volunteer to help on the following committee(s):

Membership/Development _____ Education _____ Property _____ Programs _____

● Call me for help with _____ Grounds _____ Events _____ Telephoning _____ Mailings

Other _____

Contributions are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form with your payment to: R.I.L.F., P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840 - THANK YOU!

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Rhode Island 02840

MC -93
R.I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Attn: Al Klyberg
110 Benevolent St.
Providence, RI 02906

"The Light House"

by Jesse Orton, Keeper (1921-1936)

I stand upon a rocky shore,
And watch the ships go by,
I see them come, and see them go,
And watch them cross the bar.

I sometimes wonder from whence they come,
And whither they are bound,
I only see them as I stand
Upon a rocky shore.

I have a duty to perform
As they go sailing by,
To keep the light burning bright
To guide the ships who pass a night.

Oh! that I had my Grandson Paul
to help me in the storms,
To guide these ships that pass the light,
To safety and from harm.

And may that light be a guide to us,
When we put out to sea,
And guide us safely o'er the bar,
My Grandson Paul and me.

submitted by
Grandson Paul
Stedman

